

My Own Religion

Phil 2:12-13

Zeke Flores

Intro: *Christianity is universal in nature.*

- A. It's for all people, to be sure - **John 3:16**
- B. Yet, it is worked out by individuals
 - 1. **Phil 2:12-13, Gal 6:4**
 - 2. In the world to come, I will not be asked, "*Why were you not Moses, or Paul, or John?*" I will be asked, "*Why were you not Zeke?*" The problem is how to be the best individual Christian you can be.
- C. Jesus often taught with the individual in mind.
 - 1. Sometimes he taught certain individuals such as the Samaritan woman (John 4) or Zaccheus (Luke 19).
 - 2. Sometimes His illustrations centered on individuals:
 - a. One lost, one sought, rejoicing over one - Lk 15
 - b. One soul worth more than the world - Matt 16:26
 - 3. He didn't expect that entire nations would convert to become His disciples; He didn't even expect that entire families would (Matt 10:34-ff).
- D. Christianity is a relationship that is shared by many
 - 1. We work & worship together
 - 2. Yet, salvation must be attained and maintained by each individual and is therefore a deeply intimate, personal thing.
 - 3. Consider...

I. Salvation Is A Personal Matter

- A. Each one must:
 - 1. Believe - **Heb 11:6, John 3:36**
 - 2. Confess - **Matt 10:32, Rom 10:9**
 - 3. Repent - **Acts 17:30, Luke 13:3**
 - 4. Be baptized - **Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, 8:36-38**
- B. This refutes many common practices today:
 - 1. Purgatory - No one can pray you into heaven
 - 2. Infant baptism - Can't be saved by parents' faith
 - 3. Baptism for the dead - It's too late for them
- C. No one can obey for you! You must make your own decision and respond yourself!
 - 1. **Heb 5:9**

II. Worship Is A Personal Matter

- A. While it is something that is done as we assemble together, it too is something that we each *personally and individually* offer to God. - **1 Cor 12:27**
 - 1. How do you sing?
 - a. Christ's word within you - **Col 3:16**
 - b. Making melody in your heart - **Eph 5:19**
 - 2. How do you pray?
 - a. Each one effectually, fervently - **James 5:16**
 - 3. How do you listen/study?
 - a. Attentively - **2 Tim 2:15**
 - 4. How do you give?
 - a. Purposefully, cheerfully - **2 Cor 9:7**
 - 5. How do you eat the Lord's Supper:
 - a. Examining self - **1 Cor 11:27-29**

- B. Too many are satisfied to let everyone else sing, pray, etc, but they themselves don't engage in worship!
 1. Certainly you cannot worship if you yourself do not come, but even when you're among the believers, you must contribute.
 2. If not, could God possibly be pleased?

III. **The Christian Life Is A Personal Matter**

- A. James drives home the point of *personal* pure & undefiled religion.
 1. **James 1:26-27, Rom 2:17-23**
 2. Too many are content to be "hearers only," or drop their \$\$ in the basket and hope that ends their obligation to the needy or the work of the church.
 3. How many afflicted people have you visited this year?
- B. True faithfulness will only come when each one of us gives due diligence to himself.
 1. **2 Pet 1:5-11**
 2. Surely, what YOU do sets the tone for YOUR life!

IV. **Judgment Will Be A Personal Matter**

- A. It's coming, don't be surprised!
 1. **Rom 14:12, 2 Cor 5:10**
 - a. In New York, a photographer will, for \$500, follow you around for two days recording your everyday life at home, work, & play, then condense it all into a 20 minute documentary with the "good parts" as highlights. God doesn't see the condensed version, He sees the whole thing!
 2. You'll not be judged by the character of saints you kept company with, what good works the church engaged in, or the faithfulness of your parents, or anything other than your own life and your own work.
 3. Will there be anything there for God to say "*Well done, good and faithful servant*" ?

Conc: *Salvation is truly a PERSONAL relationship with God through Jesus.* (Gal 2:20)

- A. It cannot be gotten for you or experienced for you.
- B. INV